

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction:

Claims 1, 7, and 8 are amended, and claims 5, 6, and 14-43 are canceled. Claims 1-4 and 7-14 are now pending, of which claims 13 and 14 are withdrawn as directed to a nonelected species. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

This Amendment should be entered:

As an initial matter, this Amendment should be entered because, as discussed more fully below, the Amendment clearly places the application in condition for allowance. (See MPEP § 714.12.) Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 7-12 contain allowable subject matter. As discussed more fully below, all pending independent claims either already contain or are amended to contain the limitations of one of claims 5 or 7-12. Therefore, all pending claims are now clearly in condition for allowance.

More specifically, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 5, which was identified in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, independent claim 1 as well as claims 2-4, each of which depends directly or indirectly from claim 1, are now clearly in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 was identified in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter and has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its former base claim (claim 6). Claim 7 is therefore now clearly in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-12 were identified as allowable in the Office Action, and therefore are clearly in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 13 and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 8 and are therefore clearly allowable over the prior art of record. Although claims 13 and 14 are withdrawn as directed to a non-elected species, both claims depend from clearly allowable linking claim 8. For this reason, claims 13 and 14 should now be rejoined and allowed. (See MPEP § 809 ("Any claim(s) directed to the non-elected invention(s), previously withdrawn from consideration, which depends from or includes all the limitations of the allowable linking claim must be rejoined and will be fully examined for patentability."))

Thus, this Amendment clearly puts all pending claims—claims 1-4 and 7-14—in condition for allowance.

Objections to claims:

Claims 1, 7, and 8 were objected to as containing typographical errors. Applicants have amended those claims to correct the typographical errors. The objections to those claims should, accordingly, be overcome. (Applicants note that the amendments to claims 1, 7, and 8 correcting typographical errors were not made for reasons of patentability.)

Rejection in view of prior art:

Claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,686,318 to Farnworth et al. ("Farnworth"). Applicants believe that this rejection is moot in view of this Amendment.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, which was identified in the Office Action as allowable. Claim 1 is therefore now clearly allowable.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also now clearly allowable.

Claim 6 has been canceled, mooting the rejection of claim 6.

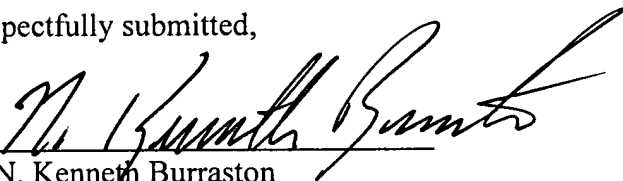
Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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